

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCLANT

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USNMR SHAPE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 1192 (DTG 031835Z MAR 76) ACTION SECSTATE

DAR ES SALAAM INFO LONDON LUSAKA NAIROBI PARIS PRETORIA

CAPE TOWN USUN

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 1192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, NATO, UN

SUBJ: CRITICISM OF NATO IN UN-APARTHEID DOCUMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 50923, (B) USNATO 690 NOTAL, (C) 75 USNATO

1150 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO EARLY FEB PRESS STORIES ON SACLANT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC NAVAL FORCE ACTION, THE NATO PRESS SPOKESMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE, AND REPORTEDLY ON FEB 5 AND 6 DID USE THIS GUIDANCE "30 OR 40 TIMES": "(1) A NATO BRIEFER HAD ACCURATELY PRESENTED THE FACTS ABOUT SACLANT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR WARTIME-ONLY FLEET ACTION SOUTH OF THE TROPIC OF CANCER TO KEEP SEA LANES OPEN; (2) SACLANT PLANS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN 1972 FOR WARTIME CONTINGENCY USE AND HAD NO RELATION WHATSOEVER TO THE

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PRESENT SITUATION IN AGOLA; AND (3) THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY

NO NATO CONTACT WHATSOEVER WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON THIS OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT, MILITARY OR POLITICAL, AT ANY LEVEL AT ANY TIME."

2. ADDITIONALLY, THE OFFICE OF THE NATO PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS OVER THE RECENT YRS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES WHICH SUGGESTED VARIOUS KINDS OF ALLEGED TIES BETWEEN NATO AND SOUTH AFRICA AND REPORTEDLY HAS IN EACH CASE ROUTINELY AND CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THERE HAS EVER BEEN ANY CONTACTS OR DEALINGS WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THE TWO. THE NATO PRESS OFFICE DOES NOT KEEP A RECORD OF THESE ROUTINE TELEPHONIC RESPONSES TO PRESS QUERIES.

3. NATO SYG LUNS HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED CONNECTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE CLAIMED IN THE UN-APARTHEID DOCUMENT, AS THE DOCUMENT ITSELF STATES, BUT THESE DENIALS HAVE BEEN IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH OR LETTERS TO UN OFFICIALS (REF C).

4. COMMENT: OUR ATTEMPTS TO CULL THE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS ON THESE ISSUES HAVE REVEALED THAT NO FORMAL PRESS STATEMENTS HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE ALLIANCE. WHILE OFFICIALS OF THE NATO-IS ARE CERTAIN THAT NATO/SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION STORIES HAVE INFORMALLY BEEN KNOCKED DOWN MANY TIMES, NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE TEXTS OF EXACT LANGUAGE USED. THIS SUGGESTS PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEEK AN OCCASION FOR LUNS OR SOME OTHER SENIOR NATO OFFICIAL TO ISSUE A LOUD AND CLEAR FORMAL DENIAL AND REBUTTAL OF RECENT AND PAST ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET OR OVERT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NATO AND SOUTH AFRICA. ON THE OTHER HAND, SUCH A STATEMENT MAY NOT BE ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY IF THE OCCASION FOR MAKING IT SEEMED CONTRIVED.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT REF A AND THIS MESSAGE TO CINCLANT, CINCEUR, AND USNMR SHAPE. STREATOR UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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